



**Washington State
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

News Release

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EFSEC Receives Second Application to Site Wind Power Project

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) received a second application to site a wind generation facility. The Wild Horse Wind Power Project is planned to have up to 158 wind turbines that will have a maximum installed capacity of 312 MW. The project is proposed to be built on approximately 5,000 acres of open range land in eastern Kittitas County, Washington, approximately 10 miles east of the town of Kittitas. The first wind power project application received in January 2003 was for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project located in western Kittitas County between Ellensburg and Cle Elum, Washington.

The project proponent is Wind Ridge Power Partners, L.L.C., a wholly owned subsidiary of Zilkha Renewable Energy, Inc. of Houston, Texas. The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project was also proposed by a subsidiary of Zilkha Renewable Energy.

EFSEC is beginning its review process that includes a detailed review of the Wild Horse Wind Power Project application, development of an environmental impact statement, and holding hearings regarding the proposal. An initial public information meeting will be held in Ellensburg to inform residents about the project and describe the EFSEC review process, and hear initial public comments regarding the project. Announcements of the meeting will be issued in April 2004. EFSEC will also hold additional public meetings and hearings in Kittitas County throughout its expected one year review of the project.

State law allows alternative energy resources of any size to submit applications to EFSEC for state review. EFSEC Chair Jim Luce noted: "This is the second wind application submitted to EFSEC in a little over one year. As with the first wind project, this project will also receive a thorough and comprehensive review that includes many opportunities for public comment and involvement."

Under state law, EFSEC is responsible for reviewing applications to site, construct, and operate a variety of energy facilities in Washington State. EFSEC reviews projects through public meetings, use of independent technical experts, development of environmental impact statements, and formal adjudicative hearings. At the completion of its review, EFSEC submits a recommendation to the Governor. The Governor makes the final decision to approve or deny a project.

EFSEC is a state board with a chair appointed by the Governor, and representatives from five state agencies that are required to be represented on the board. When an application is submitted to EFSEC for review, the board may be augmented by members from four additional state agencies that are authorized, but not obligated, to participate in the review of applications. In addition, the local government and port district where the project is to be located appoint a representative to be a member of the board for that project.

Information regarding EFSEC and projects it reviews and regulates is posted on its Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the Wild Horse Wind Power Project application will be available for review on the EFSEC web site, at the EFSEC office in Olympia, and at local libraries in Kittitas and Ellensburg.